

Reed Hall
Dartmouth College Campus
Hanover
Grafton County
New Hampshire

HABS No. NH-67

HABS
NH
5- HANO
1A-

PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Eastern Office, Division of Design and Construction
143 South Third Street
Philadelphia 6, Pa.

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

REED HALL

Location: Dartmouth College Campus, Hanover, Grafton County, New Hampshire.

Present Owner: Dartmouth College, Hanover, New Hampshire.

Present Occupant: Dartmouth College, Departments of History and Economics.

Present Use: College offices and classrooms.

Brief Statement of Significance: Built in 1839, Reed Hall is one of the oldest surviving buildings at Dartmouth. The building was designed by Ammi B. Young who had designed the adjacent Thornton and Wentworth Halls eleven years earlier. The building is distinguished from the earlier two, mainly by the corner pilasters and graduated window heights which reflect Young's interest in the Greek Revival. This interest was fully explored in Young's Greek Revival design for the contemporary Boston Custom House.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History

1. Original and subsequent owners: Dartmouth College.
2. Date of erection: 1839.
3. Architect, builder and construction overseer: Three Young brothers: Ammi Burnham Young, architect; Dyer H. Young, Boston, builder; and Ira Young, Dartmouth professor of astronomy and natural philosophy, construction overseer.
4. Donor: The building is named for William E. Reed, Marblehead, Mass., through whose bequest it was built.
5. Notes on alterations and additions: Except for the exterior paint which was originally yellow instead of the present white color, the exterior largely retains its

NH
S. HANO.

HABS No. NH-67

REED HALL
page 2

original appearance. Originally the building housed libraries, reading rooms and classrooms. In 1874, gas was installed. In 1885 when Wilson Library was built, the library space in Reed Hall was divided into dormitory rooms and the entire first floor given to the physics department. In 1898 toilet facilities were installed on the second floor at a cost of \$800.00. In 1899, when Wilder Hall was built as a new physics building, the first floor of Reed Hall was remodelled for the philosophy and political science departments. In 1904, the first floor was remodelled to accommodate 23 men and the entire building served as a dormitory. In 1929 the entire interior was rebuilt into classrooms, seminar rooms and offices to house the history and economics departments.

6. References

- a. Roger P. Benezet, The History of Reed Hall (Student Thesis in Carpenter Library, Dartmouth College, Hanover, New Hampshire, 1932).
- b. Osmund R. Overby, "Amni B. Young in the Connecticut Valley," Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians, vol. XIX, no. 3 (October, 1960), pp. 119-123.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement

1. Architectural Character: The building is a rather restrained, simplified example of Greek Revival architecture. The exterior preserves the original design, but the interior has been remodelled several times to accommodate various usages.
2. Condition of Fabric: The building is sound and well maintained.

B. Technical Description of Exterior

1. Overall dimensions: Three story, rectangular building approximately 50' x 70'.
2. Foundations: Large blocks of cut granite.

3. Wall construction: Brick walls, laid in lime mortar, 16" thick except 20" thick at the corner pilasters. Brick made locally.
4. Stoops: Large blocks of cut granite entrance stoops.
5. Chimneys: Four, brick chimneys.
6. Openings
 - a. Doorways and doors: Two entrances, one on each end. Eight paneled doors with side lights and transom lights set in granite doorways of a very simplified Doric order made up of a flat pilaster to either side supporting an entablature.
 - b. Windows and shutters: Double hung windows; 20/20 light on first floor; 15/15 light on second floor; 10/10 light on third floor. Granite sills and lintels. Fixed slat shutters.
7. Roof
 - a. Shape, covering: Gable roof, pedimented ends, sheet metal covering.
 - b. Cornice, eaves: Boxed eaves, simple moulded trim returned all across gable ends to form pediment. Square, brick pilasters at the corners with a high, simple, corbelled brick entablature enframe the sides.
- C. Technical Description of the Interior: The interiors are modern and date from the 1929 remodelling.
- D. Site
 1. General Setting: Building is part of a group of older Dartmouth buildings situated on a slight rise east of the Hanover Common.
 2. Walks: Modern concrete walks.
 3. Landscaping: Informal with lawn and large trees.